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Subject: Greater reliance on chemicals, plastics seen as auto manufacturing evolves

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Greater reliance on chemicals, plastics seen as auto manufacturing evolves

The chemicals and plastics industries should continue benefiting as vehicles become lighter and more fuel- and energy-efficient, according to these articles from ICIS. The dollar amount of chemicals and chemical derivatives in U.S.-made light vehicles increased 10.5% in 2010 from 2009, and is "up 92% since 2000," said Kevin Swift, chief economist for the American Chemistry Council. "We believe the growth of polymer materials will continue as the automotive industry drives to improve the energy efficiency of vehicles," said Bruce Benda, vice president of automotive and transportation at Bayer MaterialScience. [ICIS Chemical Business \(U.K.\) \(1/9\)](#), [ICIS Chemical Business \(U.K.\) \(1/9\)](#) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkjwfDcQgkfCrFqA> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkjlDcQgkfCxTwp> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkUfDcQgkfCFCcs> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkkgfDcQgkfCOFrd> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkksfDcQgkfCZdwc>

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Policy Watch

ACC: 2012 to be a year of slow growth for chemical industry

The U.S. chemical industry outpaced projections in 2011 with a 3.8% growth rate, but the American Chemistry Council expects the industry to expand by only 1.6% in 2012. Agricultural and pharmaceutical chemicals are sectors expected to perform well this year, according to Chemical & Engineering News' World Chemical Outlook. [Chemical & Engineering News \(1/9\)](#) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkEfDcQgkfCkVIF> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixklofDcQgkfClrqt> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkAfDcQgkfCmbBM> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkMfDcQgkfCogjN> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkYfDcQgkfCrFqA>

N.Y. delays drilling as other states benefit

New York continues to be the most prominent state not drilling for natural gas, and "[t]here is no indication that shale-gas development in New York will begin in 2012," writes Clark Whelton. "The Marcellus and Utica formations represent an extraordinary opportunity for New York. Various studies agree that for decades to come, shale-gas development in the state could create billions of dollars in new economic activity and tens of thousands of jobs," Whelton writes. [City Journal online \(1/8\)](#) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkmkfDcQgkfCwyZb> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkmwfDcQgkfCCNeQ> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkmlfDcQgkfCKvKT> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkmUfDcQgkfCTyZE> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkngfDcQgkfCdXeD>

Ohio officials should support effort to land cracker

Ohio's incentives offering to Shell Chemicals for a potential ethane cracker in the state has received support from Democratic and Republican lawmakers, this editorial notes. Because of the economic and employment benefits of such a facility, "[l]ocal government officials and business and community leaders would do well to contact the governor's office and offer their support for the project -- if they haven't already," the editorial urges. [The Vindicator \(Youngstown, Ohio\) \(1/7\)](#) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixknsfDcQgkfCpPrg> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkocfDcQgkfCrFwi> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkoofDcQgkfCspHB> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkoAfDcQgkfCuupC> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkoMfDcQgkfCxTwp>

EPA to study water samples from Pa. gas-drilling site

The Environmental Protection Agency will collect and study water samples from wells near Cabot Oil & Gas' natural gas drilling site in Dimock, Pa., after residents expressed concerns about the water quality. In 2010, Cabot Oil & Gas reached a settlement with state regulators over methane pollution in 14 water wells there. "We will evaluate the sampling results and share them with the residents," said Betsaida Alcantara, a spokeswoman for the agency. [Bloomberg \(1/6\)](#) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkoYfDcQgkfCCNeQ> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkpkfDcQgkfCJbkF> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkpwfDcQgkfCQJQI> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkplfDcQgkfCZNft> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkpUfDcQgkfCklks>

Other News

Obama urges "insourcing." to host forum with DuPont, others

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Research & Innovation

Kullman is leading DuPont's drive into biotech, emerging markets

DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman is credited with guiding the company through the recession despite cutbacks in facilities and employees. Kullman has become a member of President Barack Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness while focusing the company on biotechnology and emerging markets. "I think we'll be hiring in the next couple years at a rate we haven't seen since the 1980s," Kullman said. [The News Journal \(Wilmington, Del.\) \(1/7\)](#) <http://r.smartbrief.com>

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Ford to use clean-tech materials for seat components  
Ford will showcase car seats made of materials derived from postconsumer waste collected at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The material, branded under the Repreve line, is manufactured by Unifi and composed of recycled yarn formulated using nylon and polyethylene terephthalate. The Ford Focus Electric will be the company's first vehicle line to use only recycled materials. International Business Times (1/7), SustainableNonwovens.net (U.K.) (1/9) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkslfDcQgkfCrTQv> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixksUfDcQgkfCDMcY> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixktEfDcQgkfClrqW> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixktQfDcQgkfCJbCp> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkucfDcQgkfCLgkq>

Other News

Virent receives patents for work with renewable chemicals  
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Leadership & Management

[Multinationals think local to break into China](#)  
Foreign companies that want to do more business in China are hiring increasing numbers of local staff. It's difficult to find enough qualified candidates, so many firms are forced to hire graduates from lower-tier Chinese universities. "We are now almost fully localized, with the exception of a few C-suite positions," says Brian Newman, chief financial officer of PepsiCo China. Knowledge@Wharton (1/3) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkwEfDcQgkfCTzHo> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkwQfDcQgkfCVEpp> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkxcfDcQgkfCZdwc> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkxofDcQgkfCdXeD> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkxAfDcQgkfCklks>

[If you aren't making mistakes, you're doing something wrong](#)

The best business ideas often spring from strategic stumbles, writes Paul Schoemaker. It's essential to tolerate and even encourage mistake-making to create space for serendipity. "Deliberately making errors goes against the human grain," he writes. "But trying too hard to avoid them may be the greatest mistake of all." Inc.com (1/5) <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkxMfDcQgkfCrTQv> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkxYfDcQgkfCAXfg> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkykfDcQgkfCLvkf> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkywfDcQgkfCXnwl> <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/drleDrlUuceixkzgfDcQgkfCeHly>

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ACC News

ACC Weekly Economic Report

Consumer confidence appears to be improving in light of recent job-market gains. The jobs report was better than expected and shows continued improvement. The tide is beginning to turn for the better. Among major end-use markets for chemistry, strong light-vehicle sales were positive and the prospects going into 2012 are quite good. In addition, construction spending rose and the national and regional purchasing manager reports were all pointing to expanding activity. On the other hand, global semiconductor sales slipped, as did factory orders, the result of guarded cautiousness by business. Turning to chemistry, the ISM report indicated that the chemical industry contracted in December. Railcar loadings continued to point toward moderated activity. This was contradicted by the hours worked data emanating from the employment report. Our analysis of downstream activity indicates destocking activity is underway for thermoplastics.

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[Marcellus states continue to compete for Shell's ethane cracker](#) (The Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register (Wheeling, W. Va.))  
[Pa. offers incentives as Shell considers specialized facilities](#) (The Wall Street Journal)  
[Shell may announce location of major ethane cracker in February](#) (The Plain Dealer (Cleveland))  
[Energy Dept. is urged to weigh consequences of nat-gas exports](#) (The Hill)  
[Federal court halts EPA's cross-state air regulations](#) (Chemical Week)  
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SmartQuote

Knowledge can be communicated, but wisdom cannot. A man can find it, he can live it, he can be filled and sustained by it, but he cannot utter or teach it."

--Hermann Hesse,  
German-Swiss writer and poet  
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